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SIPDIS

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PARIS FOR GREG D'ELIA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [GH](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TO](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON THE CRISIS IN GUINEA: TOGO

REF: STATE 19838

¶1. Ambassador met with Foreign Minister Zarifou Ayeva February 22 to discuss the crisis in Guinea and left a French version of Embassy Conakry's press statement. Ambassador encouraged Togo to use its influence within ECOWAS to press for an end to the State of Siege and a permanent resolution of the crisis within Guinea's constitutional framework.

¶2. Ayeva was receptive to our demarche, explaining that while Togo is not directly impacted by events in Guinea, there are many long-time Togolese expatriates residing in Guinea who moved there to fill the skills shortage when Sekou Toure broke with France. He described the crisis as multi-dimensional (institutional, political, economic, social, and ethnic) and thus not susceptible to a quick fix.

¶3. Ayeva characterized the government's State of Siege as a "grave error," in that it excluded key voices that could contribute to a solution and increased the pressure on an impoverished population whose day-to-day livelihood depends on its ability to circulate. He noted that a topic of discussion on the margins of last week's Franco-African summit was that the evacuation of western expatriates, while understandable, had been an added psychological blow to the population.
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